

CLAIM AMENDMENT:

Please amend Claim 5 as follows:

1. - 4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) An information recording and/or reading apparatus comprising:

a base plate ~~having a notch therein;~~

a column supported on said base plate and including an upper surface having an opening therein;

a support plate disposed on the upper surface of said column;

a spindle motor having an output shaft perpendicular to said base plate, said output shaft rotatably driving a disk;

a head unit, including a motor and an encoder, supported on said support plate, for determining a position of a recording/reading head of the head unit about a rotary alignment axis parallel to the output shaft of said spindle motor;

a vertical pivot shaft extending parallel to the rotary alignment axis;

a pivotal mechanism for pivoting said support plate, on which said head unit is supported, about said vertical shaft relative to said base plate, wherein at least a portion of said head unit, or a support portion of said head unit supported

on said support plate, passes through the notch of said base plate opening in the  
upper surface of said column;

a moving stage which mounts said spindle motor; and

a stage driving mechanism for driving said moving stage toward

or away from the rotary alignment axis.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)